

---

Cedars

---

12-11-2019

## Cedars, December 2019

Cedarville University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/cedars>



Part of the [Journalism Studies Commons](#), and the [Organizational Communication Commons](#)

[DigitalCommons@Cedarville](#) provides a platform for archiving the scholarly, creative, and historical record of Cedarville University. The views, opinions, and sentiments expressed in the articles published in the university's student newspaper, Cedars (formerly Whispering Cedars), do not necessarily indicate the endorsement or reflect the views of DigitalCommons@Cedarville, the Centennial Library, or Cedarville University and its employees. The authors of, and those interviewed for, the articles in this paper are solely responsible for the content of those articles. Please address questions to [dc@cedarville.edu](mailto:dc@cedarville.edu).

---

### Recommended Citation

Cedarville University, "Cedars, December 2019" (2019). *Cedars*. 752.  
<https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/cedars/752>

This Issue is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Cedarville, a service of the Centennial Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in Cedars by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Cedarville. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@cedarville.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@cedarville.edu).

# CEDARS



The Award-Winning Student News Publication of Cedarville University

December 2019

## *Her Story*

**MINISTRY REACHES  
WOMEN IN CRISIS**

### ***Also Inside:***

Students' opinions on  
Cedarville's Covenant

Women and children  
in ISIS camps

Professor Profile:  
Jim Leightenheimer





# Table of Contents

December 2019 / Vol. 71, No. 5

Sandi Wagner: Founder of Her Story	4-5
Students' Opinions on Alcohol	6-7
Women and Children in ISIS Camps	8-9
Fossil Fuels on Trial	10
Women's Volleyball Season Summary	11
Profile: Dr. Alan Geist	12-13
Christmas Traditions	14-15
Student Spotlight: Marlee Maynard	16
Christmas in Other Cultures	17-18
Professor Profile: Jim Leightenheimer	19

**Cover design:** Katie Wingert  
**Page designs:** Nick Baldwin, Ethan Ooms, Lauren Stieferman and Katie Wingert

# BEOC

(Big Event On Campus)

**GO CONFERENCE**  
Jan 7-9, 2020  
Dixon Ministry Center

Each January Cedarville University begins the spring semester with the GO Conference, bringing missionaries, missions speakers and representatives from missions agencies to campus to challenge the student body with the needs of the world. The GO Conference allows students to see how they can use their vocational training and interests to be part of the Great Commission.

During morning and evening chapel services, missionary speakers encourage students to use their lives for kingdom impact, while afternoon displays and workshops expose students to the many cultures and people groups that still need to hear the Gospel.



FOLLOW CEDARS ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

facebook.com/cedarsatcu

@cedarsatcu

@CedarsatCU @CedarsSports

jgilbert@cedarville.edu (advisor)

cedars@cedarville.edu

**CEDARS**  
READCEDARS.COM

## Editors



**Tim Miller**  
Editor-in-Chief,  
Sports



**Breanna Beers**  
Campus News



**Shelby McGuire**  
Arts and  
Entertainment



**Maddy Mosher**  
Arts and  
Entertainment



**Alexandria  
Hentschel**  
Off-Campus



**Abigail Hintz**  
Digital Editor



**Carrie Bergan**  
Photography



# Just Sayin' ... Alex Hentschel

## Have a Holly, Jolly, Ethically

Christmas is, without a doubt, the best day of the year. There's so much joy and happiness to be shared — from rushing downstairs like a little kid, to enjoying coffee around the tree, to the anticipation of someone unwrapping a gift you picked especially for them. Sometimes as we rip apart piles of presents, we forget that most of the time, all the little things people bought you will go missing in the next weeks and months.

We also generate a veritable mountain of wrapping paper, plastic and bows that gets dumped in the garbage — adding to the over 8 billion metric tons of plastic we are dumping into the oceans each year, according to Conservation International. Why, as a society, do we celebrate the happiest day of the year by generating so much waste?

As Americans, we live in a consumerist society. Thanks to technology and the benefits of capitalism, we have more products than we could ever know what to do with. Digital and traditional advertising makes us want more things than we could ever need or use — and want them immediately. Due to our culture of instant gratification and convenience, we often consider our products worth obtaining no matter the cost.

To be fair, most Americans are completely unaware of the harsh working conditions in factories, the waste and corruption in the fast fashion industry, the death of small business, and the mistreatment of workers by major conglomerates. It's easy for us to ignore sustainable consumption practices because these issues do not affect average, middle-class life.

Turning a blind eye to suffering, however, for the sake of saving a couple extra dollars, is certainly not in the spirit of Christmas.

One major obstacle to shopping sustainable is that it means



spending money. Amazon has a quick and easy cost comparison tool — so does Walmart — where consumers are assured of paying the lowest price possible. However, someone has to pay the margin, and it may come through cost-slashing practices that fail to satisfy even the most minimal of sustainable practices.

So how do we do this? We can research companies which produce sustainably and ethically. Some well-known brands like Patagonia already produce sustainable goods.

Thrifted is also a sustainable way to shop, as clothes get recycled and the money from buying, say, a Hollister top, does not go directly to the company that produced it unethically. Many of the things that we're spending our money on this Christmas are not basic necessities (unless you have one of those moms who gives you toothpaste and socks), so it might mean spending a bit more for a handmade and meaningful gift — by buying less and shopping smarter.

We can gift experiences (dinner together), handmade items, or one, more expensive but more sustainable gift that you know the receiver will love.

Ultimately, sustainability in consumerism is promoting awareness of where our products come from. We as consumers have a responsibility to be conscious of the human capital cost it took to get you that iPhone or the amazing deal on the \$11 sweater.

Considering fair and safe working conditions — as well as being wary of companies that claim to be sustainable but truly aren't — is a way as Christians we can think of others.

If we tell companies with our dollars that we will no longer support unfair and unsafe fast fashion and technology, more jobs will open, companies will be forced to reform, and we will see the impact all over the world.

Though it may seem like a big problem to fight all by ourselves, ultimately real change comes down to people making decisions one day at a time.



### How should Christians approach politics?

#### Breanna Beers

Campus News Editor



Numerous studies have found that political party has become the primary indicator of Americans' identities — more central than religion, language, ethnicity, or region. According to Pew

Research Center, three-quarters of Americans feel they cannot agree with the other party on "basic facts," let alone plans or policies.

Tribalistic polarization is on the rise in the United States. It's a combination of contemporary culture, modern media and the political system itself. Gerrymandered districts mean the only real competition is for the primary, incentivizing candidates to appeal to the extreme fringes of their base. In a campaign-driven system, the moderate position is a hard one to hold because it's nuanced; the simpler story is always the easier one to sell.

This is not just an issue for politicians and pundits; it's affecting the way we interact with one another every day. Whether you recognize it or not, your Twitter feed, news highlights and Google search results are carefully cultivated for maximum engagement — and the information you consume affects your vision of the world.

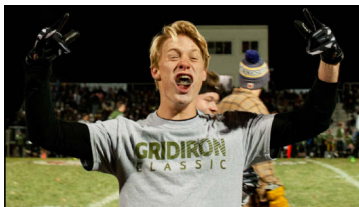
As believers, the way we argue politics before the world is a representation of who we are as a community. Do we identify first with our faith or with our party? Do we see the two as interchangeable for each other?

I recently had a conversation with political science professor Dr. Mark Caleb Smith. We talked about the church's complex relationship with the political system, whether the church should be a politically diverse body, and how we can extend political grace to our rivals.

To listen in, go to [ReadCedars.com](http://ReadCedars.com), click the Media tab, and choose Podcasts.

## Websclusives @ ReadCedars.com

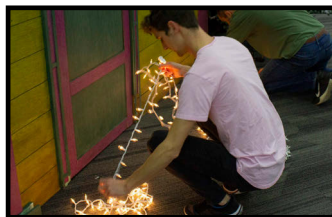
### PHOTO



#### Gridiron Classic

Carrie Bergan and Matthew McMahon capture the intense moments and the celebrations from the annual event.

### PHOTO



#### Campus Christmas setup

Check out Carrie Bergan's gallery with a behind-the-scenes look at the Campus Experience crew decorating the SSC.

### PODCAST



#### Christian and politics discussion

Join campus news editor Breanna Beers for discussion about politics with political science professor Dr. Mark Caleb Smith.



# Her Story Honored by State of Ohio

Cedarville social work professor committed to rehabilitation for local women



Photo provided by Sandi Wagner

From left, Dr. Beth Delaney, Whitney Caudill, Sandi Wagner, and Brandy Gleason enjoy some time together at the Ohio Statehouse where they were given the Innovation Now award.

by Lydia Switzer

In 2017, Montgomery County, Ohio, was named the overdose capital of the United States. Cedarville, Xenia and Beavercreek lie right next door. These towns, while smaller than Dayton, have also experienced the devastation of addiction: damaged relationships, broken families and lost lives.

As a graduate of Cedarville University, professor of social work and resident of Xe-

nia, Sandi Wagner has seen firsthand the effects of substance abuse in the community.

"There has been a growing need because we are a suburb of Dayton and Dayton is the opioid overdose capital in the nation, and that ripples into the surrounding communities," Wagner said.

The idea for Her Story House began with Wagner's friend, Whitney Caudill. Caudill also has experience in social work and came into contact with a mother on her

caseload who was ready to escape her addiction. However, Caudill could not find a place for this woman to stay that didn't have requirements such as a 30-day sobriety period, and so she came to Wagner for help.

"We really just wanted to focus on this mom getting help, and there wasn't anywhere," Wagner recalled.

They soon realized that this woman was not alone. They began brainstorming ways to fill the treatment gap they had wit-

nessed "between when a homeless woman says she wants treatment, and when she's actually able to get into it," as Wagner put it.

After two years of preparing and fundraising, Her Story House opened in Xenia in August of 2018, funded entirely by donations. This fall, Her Story was honored by the state of Ohio Addiction Policy Forum with the Innovation Now award.

When a woman is ready to fight an addiction and enter into sobriety, she can con-



tact Her Story through its website or be referred by a case worker or police officer. The first step while at the house is an individual assessment to determine the woman's specific needs. She is then plugged into outside treatments specific to her situation, such as professional help with mental health or substance abuse.

At the house, the women participate in daily devotions in the mornings in addition to a recovery-themed meeting in the evenings. The group often volunteers together.

"Whenever a woman comes, they are with us, doing life with us 24/7 for those 45-ish days," Wagner explained.

Each woman is referred to inpatient treatment after around 45 days of staying in the house. At a treatment facility, she can continue on the path toward sobriety with a foundation of healthy living.

Wagner shared the story of one woman who completed the program and is now 15 months sober. This woman is now working on regaining custody of her children. In the meantime, she has an apartment, a car, and a job, and is going back to school. She now volunteers at Her Story House, serving those who are in the same position she was over a year ago.

Out of 35 women who went through the Her Story program in the last 12-14 months, 27 are now in long-term inpatient treatment, fulfilling Her Story's goal of moving women from homelessness into a stable environment.

If a woman remains in the program for a week, that significantly increases her chances of developing a sober lifestyle. However, in addition to overcoming addiction, every woman must deal with her own past, often including trauma and abuse; more than 50% of Her Story residents have been affected by human trafficking.

For Brandy Gleason, the executive director of Her Story, the mission of the program is close to her heart; she is herself in long-term substance abuse recovery.

"It was a hard journey," Gleason said. "I've been to jail. Children's services was called on me when I had my son. But all of that brought me to where I am now."

She has been sober for six years now, but it took the threat of losing her son to ini-

tiate long-term recovery. Sometimes, Gleason said, women who enter the program are not prepared to leave behind their former way of living.

"Sometimes they're not ready [to enter into long-term recovery], so we just focus on planting a seed, and when they are ready, hopefully they'll remember that they were treated with love and integrity, and that they have value," Gleason said.

Wagner is the social worker at Her Story and volunteers much of her time each week at the house doing assessments, leading groups and spending time with the residents.

"We want the women to see that there is a bigger world outside of themselves," she said. "It's really cool to see their eyes open up [as] they start to dream about different parts of their life and what might look different once they're in sobriety."

Wagner also said her Christian faith motivates her to help the women that she comes into contact with.

"I do what I do, serving there, because Jesus calls me to," she said. "He loves the least of these."

Part of Her Story's mission is to impart Christ's love to others. The organization is changing these women's lives physically and emotionally, but it is changing them spiritually as well.

When asked about ways students can help, Wagner first mentioned prayer. The residents of Her Story are not only detoxifying from an addiction, they are attempting to start a brand new life, and this is difficult for everyone involved.

"Obviously, we love prayer; praying for the women that come to us in very vulnerable and broken spots," Wagner said. "It's very hard for some women to get past two days of not using because the addiction [has] taken over their brain."

For those interested in volunteering, Wagner encourages reaching out via Her Story's website, [herstoryhouse.com](http://herstoryhouse.com). Volunteers simply spend time with the women living at the house, whether that means watching a movie, cooking a meal, or just hanging out and getting to know them. There are opportunities available for churches or other small groups to get involved as well.

Despite the success they've seen, those working at Her Story House know that more can and should be done. For example, Wagner hopes that in the near future, Her Story can open a sober living house for graduates of the initial program to come back to after inpatient treatment.

Despite the obstacles and hard days, Wagner trusts that God will continue to work through Her Story.

"We would not be where we are today without him opening doors – huge doors," she said. "You see small glimmers of [Je-

sus] redeeming people's lives, which is really inspiring, and that's why I continue to do it."

Gleason feels the same way: "When I see the changes in a woman, when she starts to believe in herself, and see all that she's capable of, that's the best thing of all."

*Lydia Switzer is a sophomore Political Science student. When she is not studying, she enjoys playing the euphonium in Cedarville's wind symphony and competing with the debate team.*



Photo by Carrie Bergan  
Sandi Wagner is a social work professor at Cedarville and co-founded Her Story in 2016.

# Students Asked About Alcohol Use and Their Future

While alcohol consumption is prohibited for students, there is much to consider from Scripture beyond school

by *Breanna Beers*

The church's approach to alcohol has varied widely throughout history and still causes controversy across and within denominations.

The Cedarville University employee and student handbooks prohibit alcohol consumption while enrolled or employed. All sign a Community Covenant affirming many things, including adherence to the handbook. So how do Cedarville students view alcohol consumption once they have finished school?

In a Cedars poll of nearly 1,300 students, over half of them said they would probably or definitely drink at some point after graduating. A third of them said they definitely or probably would not drink. However, 63% of students said they likely would not drink regularly.

The survey sent out to Cedarville students to obtain data for this article received nearly three times the usual number of responses, reflecting the weight of this topic in evangelical culture.

Why should someone choose to abstain? What does moderation look like? Is quantity the only consideration? How can believers disagree well? How will the gospel best go forth? Answering these questions requires recognizing the nuance that exists where Scripture teaches biblical principles rather than defining exact mandates.

In his book, "The Supremacy of Christ in a Postmodern World," theologian and co-founder of The Gospel Coalition D.A. Carson drew the comparison between circumcision for Jewish believers and alcohol for the modern church. Acts 16 records that Paul circumcised Timothy to avoid that particular cultural barrier in Timothy's ministry. By contrast, in Galatians 2, Paul did not require circumcision of Titus, even when it was demanded by the believers.

Paul refused to circumcise Titus, Carson wrote, "not because it didn't matter to them, but because it mattered so much that if he acquiesced, he would have been giving the impression that faith in Jesus is not enough for salvation." Paul was willing to accommodate cultural preferences to advance the gospel; he was "rigidly inflexible" when those cultural preferences become a prerequisite to the gospel.

Carson extended the analogy to the modern discussion of alcohol consumption: "If I'm called to preach the gospel among a lot of people who are cultural teetotalers, I'll give

up alcohol for the sake of the gospel. But if they start saying, 'You cannot be a Christian and drink alcohol,' I'll reply, 'Pass the port.'"

Both abstinence and moderation are allowable positions, each with their own risks. Abstinence can lead to pride, exclusiveness and judgmentalism; moderation comes with the temptation to excess, poor stewardship and idolatry. Thus, it is important for those who drink to consider not only how much they drink, but why they do so. Similarly, the abstinent must consider why they abstain, as well as how they view fellow believers who don't.

As pastor, author, and teetotaler John Piper wrote for *Desiring God*, "I want to hate what God hates and love what God loves. And this I know beyond the shadow of a doubt: God hates legalism as much as he hates alcoholism."

Alcohol is often controversial within the church because for some, it may be completely innocuous, while for others, it is utterly life-destroying. Alcohol abuse is a real problem with real effects, and Scripture makes it clear that blithely continuing in a lifestyle of alcoholism is not an option for the Christian. Like any sin, alcohol addiction should be met by the church with grace, accountability and desire for restoration.

For this reason, abstinence from alcohol may be a pragmatic choice for some people. A person is not legalistic for setting guardrails for themselves to help them obey biblical teaching, nor are they weak for recognizing their own temptation to sin.

Our survey found that 15% of Cedarville students said they might avoid alcohol due to a family history of alcoholism — compared to 32% concerned about the loss of inhibitions due to drunkenness, 29% with moral or religious concerns, 28% worried about health effects and 21% influenced by their family's abstinence.

Historically, alcoholism has been understood as a medical problem, a moral failure, or a socioeconomic symptom. And despite the lack of modern medical evidence, the dangers of alcohol abuse were abundantly evident to biblical authors. Both the Old and New Testaments caution against wanton drunkenness — see Proverbs 23:20, Romans 13:13 and Ephesians 5:18 for a few examples.

However, these cautions against abuse of alcohol did not preclude its use, according to Scripture. Deuteronomy 7:13 and Proverbs 3:9-10 describe wine as a blessing from

the Lord to be enjoyed. Jesus not only turned water into wine at Cana, but established the drinking of wine as one of the fundamental sacraments of the church in Communion.

Christian liberty to drink alcohol demands not only moderation, but self-giving charity, along the lines of the precedent set in Romans 14. The attitude of the Christian toward alcohol should be the same as toward any issue where Scripture leaves room for ambiguity: to keep the gospel in focus.

In 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, Paul wrote, "Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ... I have become all things to all people, so that by all possible means I might save some."

This perspective helps believers clarify the correct questions to ask when it comes to alcohol consumption: not "Is alcohol acceptable or evil?" but, "When is standing out a distinctive witness, and when is it a needless barrier? What is the real motivation behind either drinking or abstaining in any particular circumstance? How can believers who disagree maintain the unity of the body of Christ?"

Our survey indicates that students' plans are influenced by their families' practices. Only one-third of students whose families never drink said they would definitely drink after graduating, compared to nearly half of students whose families frequently or occasionally drink alcohol. Similarly, less than one in 10 students whose families drink said they would never drink alcohol, compared to almost twice that rate among students whose families abstain.

Age was also a significant factor in students' decision-making: 70% of students over 21 said they would probably or definitely drink after graduating. This is likely influenced by their social circles: three-quarters of students over 21 reported that more than 60% of their non-Cedarville friends drink.

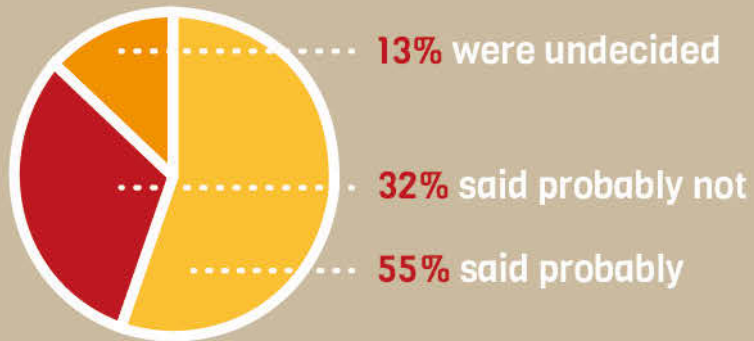
This topic is obviously one students think about and discuss. Surrounded by faithful faculty and fellow believers those discussions can shape students' lives around biblical principles that will guide them beyond their time here.

*Breanna Beers is a junior Molecular and Cellular Biology major and the campus news editor for Cedars. She loves exercising curiosity, hiking new trails, and quoting "The Princess Bride" whether it's relevant or not.*

**The dangers of alcohol abuse were abundantly evident to biblical authors.**



## Do you think you will drink alcohol after graduating from Cedarville?



**70%** of students over 21 said they would probably or definitely drink after they graduate.

## How would you rank the importance of alcohol consumption as a topic for the church to address? (1 = not very important, 5 = very important)



The average church importance is **3.5 / 5**.



## Percentage who will probably/definitely drink alcohol after graduating

**Group 1:** 19%  
**Group 2:** 72 %

## Percentage who will probably/definitely WON'T drink after graduating

**Group 1:** 74%  
**Group 2:** 18 %



## How often do members of your immediate family drink alcohol?





# 'No Friends But The Mountains'

The Kurds suffer in the midst of U.S. policy changes

by *Chloie Benton*

**A**fter the White House's recent decision to withdraw troops from the Syria-Turkey border, the displaced Kurds have once again adopted the mantra, "No friends but the mountains."

The Kurds are the largest stateless people group in the world and a longstanding ally of the United States. They live primarily in the mountainous regions of Iran, Syria, Armenia, Turkey and Iraq. They have been pursuing the formation of an independent state for over a century. Kurds in each country have endured increasing hardship in recent years, but Syrian Kurds are in the crosshairs of death.

For the past eight years, Syria has been in a tumultuous civil war. In 2011, the Syrian government, backed by Russia and Iran, arrested and reportedly tortured 15 school children for writing anti-government graffiti on walls at school. Resulting protests began peacefully, but violence sparked when government forces shot and killed several protesters. Unrest increased and soon civil war erupted between government supporters and rebels calling for the president's resignation. In the midst of violence, the Kurds retreated to areas of Northern Syria where they began functioning largely independent of the Syrian government.

ISIS fighters from Iraq took advantage of the war by invading and conquering strategic Syrian cities which provided them weapons and land. By the end of 2017, Kurdish and Arab forces joined together with support from foreign powers, including the U.S., to wage war on ISIS. Two years later, military victory was declared over the jihadist group, and the Kurds imprisoned thousands of ISIS fighters. U.S. forces remained in Northern Syria to train the Kurds and guard the prisons until the recent White House decision changed the landscape of the Middle East.

On October 13, President Trump ordered a withdrawal of American troops from the border between northeastern Syria and Turkey. The troops were stationed strategically to stabilize the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and prevent further ISIS attacks. The decision to withdraw American forces immediately destabilized the country, placing Syria at the mercy of land-hungry Turkish forces, who invaded days after the withdrawal was completed.

Turkey's intentions are far from obscure. In an attempt to restore the caliphate disbanded in 1924, Turkish forces continue to invade Syria and conquer land originally part of the Turkish Ottoman Empire. Turkey's defense minister posted a map to his social media claiming portions of

Greece, Syria and Iraq were part of a greater Turkey. In order to achieve a re-united Ottoman Empire, the Kurds, who have long been fighting Turkey for land and a country to call their own, must be eradicated.

Dr. Glen Duerr, associate professor of international studies at Cedarville University, says the invasion of the Turkish forces into Syria grossly violates United Nations standards and conventions on territorial integrity. Additionally, Turkish forces have been committing atrocious war crimes. Innocent Kurdish civilians are being slaughtered, gang raped, mutilated and beheaded as part of the invasion. Medical units and humanitarian convoys have also been targeted.

"The Syrian Kurds could face genocidal actions on the part of the Turkish military," Duerr said as a result of the U.S. withdrawal.

These reported and recorded war crimes took place in the midst of the alleged "safe zone" during the five-day "ceasefire," agreed upon by President Trump and Turkish President Recep Erdogan on October 17.

Shortly after the ceasefire was announced, the Turkish foreign minister was filmed saying, "We got what we wanted. This is not a ceasefire."

Dalton Thomas, founder and CEO of Frontier Alliance International (FAI), a Christian organization working in the Middle East, has been on the ground in Northern Syria since U.S. forces were withdrawn offering humanitarian aid and advocating for the Kurds. Thomas called the Turkish assault on the Kurds "the largest ethnic cleansing campaign of the century." He later released a video pleading with Americans to send help, claiming, "You've been lied to and people are dying. There is no safe zone — there is no ceasefire."

Despite President Trump's efforts to disentangle the United States from the Syrian crisis, the decision may demand far greater action in the future. The decision to pull U.S. troops has created an unstable power vacuum which paves the way for the return of ISIS.

The Kurds continue to tirelessly defend ISIS prison



**"The Syrian Kurds could face genocidal actions on the part of the Turkish military."**

*Dr. Glen Duerr*

Associate Professor of  
International Studies

their so-called allies looked on. In 1980, Saddam Hussein slaughtered hundreds of thousands of Iraqi Kurds, placing them in concentration camps and launching chemical attacks on their cities. It was not until 20 years after his "Arabization" campaign, that the U.S. launched an operation and captured Hussein, handing him over to the Iraqi military for execution.

The removal of troops reaches further than the Kurds, and further then an impending return of ISIS. The instability of Syria places Christians at the forefront of senseless slaughter and persecution.

During World War I, Turkey launched a massive campaign to exterminate Armenian Christians. Many fled to Syria, where they found refuge in several villages along the Khabur River until being ravaged by ISIS in recent years. Now, Turkish forces seem eager to cleanse the area not only of the Kurds, but of the Armenian Christians as well. Several attacks have already been launched on the villages, and more will come.

Christians have often turned a blind eye to the plight of the Kurds, or ignored what US policy has caused such suffering.

In a call to American Christians, Thomas said: "As followers of Jesus, we are called to stand against evil and to labor to protect innocent life."

*Chloie Benton is a senior Cedarville University student and an Off-Campus writer for Cedars.*



*John Moore / Getty Images*

Kurdish female troops from the Syrian Democratic Forces overlook the front line near the town of Hol, Syria, on Nov. 10, 2015.



# #ExxonKnew, But Does Trump?

The United States takes climate to trial

by Breanna Beers

From Dec. 2-13, the world's leaders gathered in Madrid, Spain, to discuss national commitments and global collaboration to counteract the advance of climate change.

This is COP25, or the 25th Conference Of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and it comes at an interesting time for the United States. Online creators are banding together under #TeamTrees, President Donald Trump is withdrawing the U.S. from the landmark Paris Agreement, and multinational oil and gas corporation Exxon Mobil is facing climate-related charges in New York.

Several states first brought charges against Exxon in 2015, demanding an investigation into claims from InsideClimate News and the Los Angeles Times that the company had deliberately concealed evidence of global warming from the public. The media quickly drew the comparison to the tobacco industry's strategic funding of research denying the health risks of cigarettes, and #ExxonKnew was born.

However, the waters of this inquiry quickly muddled, and the investigation pivoted instead to accusations of fraud: New York claims the company had two separate sets of numbers when projecting its future revenue. One set was internal, and accounted for the possibility of increased environmental regulations, while the set Exxon disclosed to its investors was based on the continuation of the status quo.

According to the state, Exxon falsely represented to its investors that climate change was factored into its future costs, which made its share price seem more secure than was accurate. Exxon countered that the two sets of numbers have different internal purposes, and New York's comparison of the two is both unfair and inaccurate. The company has dismissed the claims as politically motivated while pointing to its

decades of climate change research as its political defense.

This convoluted case is expected to set a precedent for the over 1,000 other climate-related cases currently on hold in the U.S. While the trial will be decided on the dicey details of fraud allegations, the case brings several underlying issues to light: for instance, what role invested companies should have in scientific research, whether they should be required to report what they find, and the role of politics in the judicial system.

Meanwhile, on Nov. 4, 2019, President Donald Trump fulfilled his promise to initiate the U.S.'s withdrawal from the Paris Agreement.

The UNFCCC assembled the Paris Agreement in 2016 to establish a road map for mitigating the effects of climate change, in part by limiting the change itself to only 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels. In 2016, each participating country established its own goals for mitigating climate change, which they regularly report on to the Conference. These nationally determined contributions (NDCs) vary from emissions targets to renewable energy infrastructure to financial support for least developed countries.

Trump first announced his intentions to withdraw in June 2017, citing the agreement as unfairly detrimental to the U.S. economy — specifically, the manufacturing, coal and fossil fuel industries. However, he had to wait the full three years since the agreement was ratified in November 2016 before beginning the one-year process of withdrawing.

Supporters of Trump's move claim that former president Barack Obama over-committed the U.S. to aggressive climate goals when the agreement was formed in 2016, such as reducing overall greenhouse gases by 26-28% by 2025 as compared to 2005 levels. Many believe this trapped the nation in a lose-lose situation: either redirect finances and legislation into an ambitious

push to meet Paris goals, or face the criticism of the global community for not pulling enough weight. Trump's move is a third option: don't even pretend to try, and take the reprobation as it comes.

Others criticize the agreement itself: some question whether the cumulative goals laid out in the Paris Agreement are significant enough to combat the effects of climate change. Additionally, as international studies professor Dr. Glen Duerr said, the UNFCCC lacks any enforcement mechanism beyond the disapproval of fellow member states. A pair of studies in the journal "Nature" found that as of 2017, none of the large developed nations were implementing their pledged policies.

"It kind of falls apart without an enforcement mechanism," Duerr said. However, Duerr continued, giving the UN real power to coerce countries who fail to comply comes with its own set of problems.

Trump's critics argue that regardless of the efficacy of the agreement, withdrawing outright not only abdicates environmental responsibilities, but removes the U.S. from the table for discussion and progress. Making the U.S. the single country to not only not participate in this agreement, but to actively withdraw from it, reaps increasing global disfavor and cedes American leadership in the UNFCCC to China.

One week after Trump officially withdrew from the agreement, Beijing hosted a conference of energy leaders from across the globe at which the Chinese government announced the launch of clean energy initiatives and environmental partnerships with various governments. French president Emmanuel Macron and Chinese president Xi Jinping reaffirmed the "irreversible" Paris Agreement following their \$15 billion trade contract this summer; the pair is now widely considered the face of the Paris Agreement.

Trump has expressed that he is open to re-entering the Paris Agreement under new terms, but this has mostly been met

with skepticism by climate advocates with low expectations for what those new terms would look like.

Interestingly, however, the one-year process of officially withdrawing will be completed exactly one day following the 2020 election. Most of the Democratic candidates have promised to re-enter the agreement if elected, while the boldness of Trump's move makes it difficult for Republican candidates to address environmental issues with anything but a similar hard-line approach.

Meanwhile, online influencers are going around the political system altogether. YouTuber Jimmy "MrBeast" Donaldson started the #TeamTrees initiative in partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation and over 600 fellow YouTubers. Their goal? Twenty million trees by the end of 2020. One dollar equals one tree.

On Oct. 25, YouTubers large and small, from PewDiePie to the Ten Minute Bible Hour, posted videos raising awareness for the initiative. They've gained the attention of not only the YouTube community, but billionaires like Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey and Tesla's Elon Musk — or Treelon, his temporary Twitter handle during the first week of the project. So far, they've raised money to plant over 16 million trees, 80% of the way to their goal.

During a time when partisan polarization is at its peak, the initiative crosses political and social boundaries to form the largest collaboration in YouTube's history. While studies continue to show a widening divide between Republicans and Democrats, interest in climate issues is on the rise generally in the U.S., especially among younger Americans.

*Breanna Beers is a junior Molecular and Cellular Biology major and the campus news editor for Cedars. She loves exercising curiosity, hiking new trails, and quoting "The Princess Bride" whether it's relevant or not.*

# Cedarville Volleyball Takes Step in the Right Direction

by Tim Miller

In head coach Greg Smith's first season with the Cedarville Lady Jackets volleyball team in 2018, his squad limped to a 2-11 start. Smith was a late hire and didn't get a chance to get to know his new team in the offseason.

However, with a full offseason under his belt and some of his own recruits entering the lineup, the Lady Jackets started the 2019 season with a sweep over Northwood, and played competitively in losses to regionally ranked Anderson and Indianapolis.

Cedarville went on to go 16-11 and finished fourth in the G-MAC with a record of 8-4. Though they made it to the conference tournament yet again, they were ousted by No. 4 Kentucky Wesleyan in four sets, which effectively ended the Lady Jackets season.

Individually, sophomore junior outside hitter Liene Miller (430 kills, conference single-game record 30 kills) and junior middle hitter Lauren Willow (253 kills) were each named to the all-conference team.

"It was a really good year," Smith said. "With Lauren and Liene first-team all G-MAC, it was a good ending. We beat regionally ranked teams and played some really good volleyball."

And while the Lady Jackets won three

more matches than last season, and lost seven fewer, Smith said the record doesn't tell the whole story of the Lady Jackets' improvement.

While Smith recognized injuries to key players (Willow, junior setter Sierra Schuitema) may have held them back, he said there were still wins left on the floor in some matches this season. Further, even with a better winning percentage, Smith argued Cedarville did this against better opposition than was faced in 2018.

"It's more about the quality of competition you played," Smith said. "Yes, the record definitely improved, but our quality of play was what told me we improved more than anything."

On top of close matches with Anderson and Indy, the Lady Jackets also beat regionally ranked Bellarmine, Northern Michigan (16 NCAA Tournament appearances), and forced nationally ranked Michigan Tech into four sets in a losing effort.

"We beat some pretty good teams," freshman Mallory Delamarter said. "And when we did, we all played as a unit and had a passion that was evident to those that were watching."

The Lady Jackets, led by Miller and Willow, boasted two of the best hitters in the G-MAC this season. Miller turned it on after redshirting last season and seeing



Photo by Carrie Bergan

Brooke Blattner (8) will be the most costly subtraction heading into the 2020 season after producing a second-best .238 attack percentage.

meager playing time two seasons ago, while Willow picked up where she left off last season as an all-conference standout.

Schuitema, too, Smith mentioned, enjoyed another solid season with the Lady Jackets. The Grant, Michigan native had 899 assists and 218 digs in 2019.

"Sierra did a tremendous job of setting," Smith said. "She ran down a ton of balls when the passing wasn't there. She really worked hard verbally and led by example by playing hard the whole time."

Luckily for the Lady Jackets, all three of the aforementioned players will be back in uniform next season. Further, they lose just one consistent player from this season in graduating middle hitter Brooke Blattner (153 kills in 100 sets).

Smith said he recognizes one hole from the Lady Jackets. While the Lady Jackets took advantage of the hitting abilities of Miller and Willow, there was a shortage of depth behind those two stars. Sophomore outside hitter Sara Beste was the only other player who had more than 100 kills in 2019.

Above all, though, Smith noted the integrity that the Lady Jackets had on the floor. He wasn't the only one to notice it, he said, as other teams and fans have become accustomed to the Lady Jacket culture.

"Our team is unlike any other team than I have been a part of," Delamarter said. "Our main goal is to compete for Christ. We all want to push each other to not only be better volleyball players but also to become better women of God and sisters in Christ."

Smith said the heart his players have for their opponents gives them an easy avenue to talk about the Gospel.

"It's very uncommon, which sets us apart from everyone else," Smith said. "It opens the door to share why we do what we do. When people see why you do what you do, it's pretty cool."

After contemplating on the season, Smith was clearly pleased with how much his team improved from 2018, as well as the team's overall demeanor. He said the 2020 Lady Jackets should garner regional attention.

"I expect to be way better than we were this year," Smith said. "I think knowing that we can compete but we can beat really good teams. I think we're going to be in the hunt for the conference title and to make the NCAA Tournament."

*Tim Miller is a senior Marketing major, editor-in-chief and sports editor for Cedars. He enjoys having a baby face, knowing too much about health insurance, and striving to perfect the optimal combination of Dwight Schrute and Ron Swanson.*



Photo by Carrie Bergan

The Lady Jackets won their highest percentage of matches since 2016 this year.



# Geist Focuses on Day-To-Day in AD Role

by Abigail Hintz

Dr. Alan Geist serves as Cedarville University's athletic director, and many parts of his job could be considered mundane day-to-day responsibilities.

But those are the ones that impact Geist the most.

The values he holds that make this true, overflow to everyone in the athletic department and those they interact with.

The AD role is a dynamic one. Geist oversees 16 intercollegiate sports and cheerleading at Cedarville. That is just short of 400 student-athletes as well as around 35 staff members who are under his leadership, not counting part-time assistant coaches.

"We have grown tremendously in the last 12 years," said Geist. "And the Lord has blessed us a lot just like He has the whole university."

Geist is also in charge of representing Cedarville in the Great Midwest Athletic Conference (G-MAC), where he serves as the chair of the Athletic Directors Council, as well as the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

How things operate now is not how it has always been for Cedarville athletics. When Geist took the AD position in 2008, he was already working as a faculty member in the sport management program for three years. He had also served as a Resident Director for three years. Because of this, he had a relationship with members of the administration. They approached him before he even started his work as AD about the possibility of Cedarville moving from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) to the NCAA.

This was a big decision and a big change, if they were to go through with it. Geist was first introduced to the idea in May of 2008 when he was already hired as athletic director but had not yet started work. When he officially started the job on July 1, to say he hit the ground running would be an understatement. It was the beginning of what would be a three-year transition.

"I think that process took a lot out of



Photo by Lauren Jacobs

"God has blessed Cedarville with tremendous student athletes. It is my privilege to work with them," said athletic director Dr. Alan Geist.

him because it was just a lot of work," said assistant AD Stephanie Zonars. "But he believed that it was the best direction for the university. Most people at this point know that we're on the other side of that see that we're in a really good conference, we're aligned with a lot of schools that are similar to us in terms of being private institutions and having some of the same goals that we have."

Cedarville applied to move into the NCAA Division II along with six other schools. Out of those six schools, only Cedarville and one other school were accepted.

The logistical day-to-day happenings of Cedarville athletics definitely changed when they entered the NCAA, but Geist said it did not change who the school is.

"We're a Christian institution, we'd been very successful with sharing Christ in the NAIA. As I had one of my coaches say to me at the time, 'It's just a new mission field,'" he said.

The spectacular moments of evangelism are exciting and powerful, but there are a lot of moments that occur in the daily lives of the coaches, players and administration of Cedarville athletics. Geist said that day-to-day gospel living is what gets him most excited.

"That's who we're trying to be. And every day we fail, but every day we have some neat successes and the Lord has just blessed us. And I think probably that's a microcosm of what's going on within the university," he said.

The outpouring of the values Geist holds is shown in the missions trips the student-athletes take as well as the prayers they share with opposing teams after every match.

Geist has seen the life of the student-athlete from all angles after working as an RD and faculty member. Geist greatly enjoyed teaching and found it challenging to leave the position for the AD job.

"I think that he would say that he is an educator, he is a teacher," said Zonars. "He loved his time as a faculty member and being in a classroom. I see remnants of that even in his role as an athletic director."

SPORTS; ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Geist says that having teaching experience helps him understand all aspects of the student-athlete life. He has seen it from the academic side, in terms of the affect it has when they have to miss class for away games, etc. Now, he sees the administrative and athletic sides of that same dilemma and more.

Zonars believes one of the best ways Geist connects with Cedarville is the way he interacts with the student-athletes. He is involved with the student-athlete advisory committee and can often be found inviting them to meet with him or simply talking to them in the hallways. Zonars says that this is one of Geist’s favorite things that he gets to do in the AD role.

Now, he is connected with people all over campus — so much so that he requires the help of three assistant athletic directors.

“Our athletic program is growing, it’s been growing. And so historically people all over campus met with the AD, now I’m trying to continue doing that to an extent, but I have three assistant ADs,” said Geist. “I’m trying to have them meet with people and we’re trying to grow structurally and organizationally within the athletic department.”

This helps the athletic department immerse themselves in student life. When they are able to team up with other aspects of life at Cedarville such as alumni relations and campus experience, it gets students engaged.

Geist attended Cedarville when he was in college, and at the time athletics were a bigger deal than they are now because there was less to do for students. Now, it is more of a challenge to gain the attention of the student body. However, that does not change the mission of the department. It simply changes how they attempt to meet the needs of the students and student-athletes.

“We try to display a vibrant community and be a part of our big vibrant community here at Cedarville,” said Geist.

*Abigail Hintz is a sophomore journalism major and Digital Editor for Cedars. She loves reading, playing Spikeball with her friends and watching soccer 24/7.*

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS



DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 Jazz Band concert @ 7:00 pm in the Recital Hall	6 Music Composition Majors Recital @ 7:00 pm in the Recital Hall	7 Abraham Portman Voice Recital @ 7:00 pm Charlie Brown Christmas Play Dec. 7-17 in Cincinnati
8 Community Christmas Concert @ 6:00 pm In the Jeremiah Chapel	9 Music majors present senior projects 3:30 pm - 6:00 pm In the Recital Hall	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Chris Tomlin in the Taft Theatre in Cincinnati	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Mannheim Steamroller @ 7:00 pm in the Aronoff Center for the Arts in Cincinnati	27	28



# Movie Review: 'Jojo Rabbit' One of Year's Oddest Films

By Hunter Johnson

**J**ojo Rabbit" is a comedy. A coming-of-age comedy. A Nazi coming-of-age comedy.

Directed by Taika Waititi, "Jojo Rabbit" tells the tale of a 10-year-old boy growing up in Nazi Germany as he attends a Hitler youth training camp.

Johannes "Jojo" Betzler is a Hitler fanatic. He's been raised to idolize the "savior" of their country. Life is simple for Jojo with Adolf Hitler as his role model until he discovers that his mother, played by Scarlett Johansson, has been hiding a Jewish girl in their attic.

This is one of the oddest films of 2019. Waititi is notorious for making dark comedies about weird subject matter. He's directed films like the vampire mockumentary, "What We Do in the Shadows," the coming-of-age runaway story, "Hunt for the Wilderpeople," as well as the oddball superhero film, "Thor: Ragnarok."

An unwritten rule about filmmaking is to not make fun of the Holocaust. It's not a joking matter and should be taken seriously.

"Jojo Rabbit" directly breaks this rule.

It's funny, ridiculous and makes a complete mockery of Nazi teachings.

Waititi's direction is the reason this film works. No other director has proven that they could handle such heavy subject matter so delicately. Waititi knows exactly who he's mocking and what kind of jokes he's telling. Every scene is his exact vision and comes together to create a perfectly paced film.

A primary focus of the film is Jojo's interactions with his imaginary friend, an over-the-top version of Adolf Hitler, played by Waititi. His performance of an imaginary Hitler may go down in history as a pivotal mocking of the crazed dictator, right up

there with Charlie Chaplin's historical Hitler performance in "The Great Dictator."

Waititi doesn't hold back. He's the funniest aspect of the film as well as the most uncomfortable to watch. He might make audiences hate Hitler even more than they already do.

While Waititi's vision is all over this film, he is by no means the main character. That role goes to the young Nazi-enthusiast that appears in nearly every scene, Jojo Betzler.

Portrayed by newcomer Roman Griffin Davis, Jojo is a delight to watch. He is a fully realized boy and never once comes across an actor pretending to be a character, a common problem in coming-of-age films.

Davis plays Jojo as a stubborn kid who wants nothing less than to be a Nazi, ignorantly thinking he knows everything about the world, including what he's been taught about the "devil-horned monsters," or Jewish people. He simultaneously plays Jojo as a soft-hearted romantic, who, despite everything he tells his friends, doesn't have a violent bone in his body.

Beyond Jojo and his imaginary Hitler friend, "Jojo Rabbit" consists of a fantastic supporting cast. Johansson gives one of the most unique and engaging performances of her career as Jojo's secretly anti-Nazi mother.

Sam Rockwell and Rebel Wilson play hilarious Nazis who run the Hitler youth camp.

Thomasin McKenzie plays the young Jewish girl hiding in Jojo's attic. She gives a nuanced performance as someone who struggles to see purpose in her life in such a seemingly hopeless situation.

One of the aspects that contributes to the film's uniqueness is the music. Famed composer Michael Giacchino ("Up," "Star

**therapist**

**professor**

**visionary**

**Dr. David Van Dyke**  
Chair, IL MFT Licensure & Disciplinary Board  
Commissioner, COAMFTE  
Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy

Dr. Van Dyke and the rest of the Marriage and Family Therapy faculty develop the whole person to foster new possibilities for personal, professional, and relational growth. In the classroom and in our new Marriage and Family Therapy Clinic, train with visionaries in the field and pursue one of the fastest growing careers through the **M.A. in Marriage & Family Therapy**.

The Marriage and Family Therapy program at Wheaton College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE), 112 South Alfred Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, 703.838.9808, [coa@aamft.org](mailto:coa@aamft.org)

**wheaton.edu/MA-FamilyTherapy**

**Wheaton College Graduate School**  
For Christ and His Kingdom

Trek,” “Coco”) turns in one of the most experimental scores of his career, giving the feeling of childlike awe and wonder. It’s upbeat and matches Waititi’s oddball directorial style perfectly.

Though fun, “Jojo Rabbit” is an unexpectedly difficult watch. Every comedic moment has an underlying tone of distaste for the fact that a lot of what’s being shown on screen is what German children were actually being taught. They were raised to believe they were the superior race and that Jewish people were evil monsters. It makes for funny jokes because it’s all so ridiculous in retrospect,

but it’s simultaneously sickening because the Holocaust was real and millions of Jews really did die.

“Jojo Rabbit” masquerades as a screwball comedy, but as it progresses, the serious subject matter becomes more and more pivotal to the story, resulting in an awe-inspiring spectacle of a film that motivates as much as it entertains.

*Hunter Johnson is a junior Theatre major and an arts and entertainment writer for Cedars. He spends his time acting on stage, reading and watching “Star Wars” and occasionally doing homework.*



Photo courtesy of Fox Searchlight





# Marlee Maynard: Fitness, Food, Faith

by Shelby McGuire

If you search for @marleehope\_ on Instagram, you'll find the vibrant social media presence of a fit girl with a bright smile influencing over 4,000 followers by sharing her world of faith, fitness, friends and food.

Marlee Maynard, a junior Organizational Communication major, is doing just what her bio says: "encouraging gals to pursue their purpose in all spheres of life" through her reach on social media. In the past few years, she has used her Instagram account to build an online community to positively influence others and develop meaningful connections both personally and professionally.

After her freshman year at Cedarville, she took on a new challenge by accepting a position as a programming intern for the iBELIEVE foundation in Columbus. Instead of spending her summer at home in Racine, Ohio, this opportunity allowed her to move into her own apartment for a few months.

During this time of living on her own, she became active on social media as a way to stay connected to friends and family. She wanted to share her experience in this exciting phase of her life, so she started posting about the things that mattered to her in her day-to-day life.

Many of her posts and stories were about her personal workouts and nutrition — which had become an important part of her life in the last year. Soon, other girls following her page started to take note of her knowledge of health and fitness.

These girls started reaching out to Maynard asking her questions about what she was doing to achieve her fitness goals. As these questions and comments came more frequently, Maynard began to realize the purposeful impact she could have through this platform on other girls as they navigate their own journeys of health and fitness as well as other aspects of life.

That summer in Columbus, she saw that her Instagram gave her an avenue and a voice to share this passion with others in a way that could help them overcome their own struggles.

Maynard has been exposed to an active and healthy lifestyle by her family since she was a child. Both of her parents have an athletic background, and they continued to instill the importance of activity and balanced nutrition into Maynard and her sister.

She participated in dance and sports growing up, and in high school, she began to take ownership of her own health-conscious habits and took on a new outlet learning



Photo by Monica Ebbing

Marlee Maynard is a fitness and food enthusiast and enjoys using her passions to connect with others

to lift weights in the gym with her sister.

When she started college, fitness took on a whole new role in her life. With the stress of classes and assignments, she found the gym as an escape and release from the constant pressure. Working out became an important form of therapy in her life. She fell in love with the way working out gave her an outlet to challenge and improve herself.

Another aspect of her life that Maynard was inspired to share with others was nutrition after her first year of college.

"I saw so many girls around me have bad relationships with food with either binging or restricting, and I just wanted to share with people that that's not the way it has to be," she said.

She seeks to encourage others that "food is fuel" for activities, and it's also a blessing to enjoy. Maynard describes herself as a "foodie" and says that she enjoys trying new things and thinking about her nutrition as a game and a challenge. She loves to experiment with creative food combinations that give her the right amounts of carbs, proteins and fats to fuel her body. On her page, she shares her variety of meals that she puts together to fit her personal macronutrient needs. She also shares things like creative coffee orders, including the nutritional information.

In the areas of fitness and nutrition, Maynard says that her goal is to promote a balanced healthy lifestyle. She shares how movement is critical for health and food is fuel for the body. She shares her personal journey of tracking macronutrients and body-building style workouts, but she encourages others to make their own healthy choices that work for them and fit into their lifestyle.

Maynard's passion for fitness is a manifestation of her faith, another aspect of her life that she enjoys sharing. She compares building muscles in the gym to growing personal faith in God.

"You don't know how strong you are until you do it," she said. "It's like faith. You don't know how faithful God is to you until you let him work in your life."

Maynard describes her community of over 4,000 Instagram followers as a positive space fostering conversations among girls about the things that are important to them.

She not only uses her Instagram to share her faith, fitness, friends and food journey, but she also has been able to make professional connections and partnerships through the platform with companies that align with her values.

JustFab, an online shoe company, reached out to Maynard to promote their products and give honest reviews. She has also had the opportunity to work with LRX, a faith-based fitness apparel company, to do giveaways and photo-shoots of their products.

Maynard said she plans to complete her bachelor's degree at Cedarville and then go wherever the Lord leads her after this stage of life. She also said that she would love to continue to invest in her social media accounts to share her passions with others through anything from starting a small business plan or creating a personal development program.

*Shelby McGuire is a junior Professional Writing & Information Design major and Arts & Entertainment News Co-editor for Cedars. She enjoys working out as well as feeding her caffeine addiction pretending that she has her life together.*

# International Students have Unique Christmas Traditions

by Bryson Durst

In the United States, Christmas conjures up images of church services, nativity scenes, Christmas music, trees, lights and Santa Claus.

While the birth of Christ is celebrated around the world, different nations have their own Christmas traditions. Many Cedarville students are from or have spent time in other countries and are familiar with those traditions.

## Germany

Senior and junior Isaac and Abigail Dye, who grew up as missionary kids in Germany, said that German cities have a tradition of large outdoor Christmas markets. According to Isaac, vendors at these markets sell nutcrackers, which are small wooden smokemen that burn incense, and sweets. Germans decorate their towns with Christmas trees and stars.

On December 6, Germans celebrate Saint Nicholas Day on which children set out their shoes to get candy.

Christmas Eve is the highlight of the Christmas celebration in Germany when families go to church and open gifts.

German Christmas foods include various kinds of meat, potatoes, a type of ginger cake called lebkuchen and a tree-trunk-shaped cake called baumkuchen.

## France

France also has Christmas markets, according to freshman Ilian Baslé, who is from France.

On Christmas Eve, French families usually eat chicken or turkey dinners and open presents. Many people go to church on Christmas, even if they are not Christians. On Christmas Day, people in France usually relax with family. Around New Year's, French people send holiday cards out, much like Christmas cards in the United States.

The French and Germans alike use advent calendars, with a cupboard for each



Emma Burgess' French side of the family gets together every Christmas for a meal.  
Photo by Emma Burgess



Isaac and Abigail Dye enjoy a German Christmas Market.  
Photo by Abigail Dye

day leading up to Christmas. Abigail Dye said that each cupboard may include candies, toys, or verses.

Advent as a whole is a traditional season meant to prepare Christians to celebrate Christ's arrival. Isaac Dye said that in

Germany, Advent themes are hope, peace, joy and love.

## Italy

In Italy, freshman Aaron Hunziker (who grew up there) said that Christmas

Eve dinner usually consists of seafood and spaghetti, with desserts of fruitcake and pandoro, or golden bread.

Instead of Christmas trees, Italians decorate their homes with nativity scenes.

While most Italian Catholics go to church for Christmas services, the Protestant community in Italy is divided. Some see Christmas as a good opportunity to commemorate the Savior's birth, while others avoid it, seeing it as an unbiblical holiday with pagan roots. Recognizing this divide, many Protestant churches avoid holding Christmas-oriented services.

## Eastern Europe

In Eastern Europe, Ukrainians can choose between two Christmas celebrations. While some Ukrainians have adopted the Western habit of celebrating Christmas on Dec. 25, the Eastern Orthodox Church, which is prominent in Ukraine, has traditionally celebrated Christmas on January 7.

However, during the 20th century, the Soviet Union often suppressed religion. As a result, many secular Christmas customs were transferred to New Year's Day. Ukrainians who celebrate Christmas this way put up trees for New Year's Day and exchange gifts.

According to freshman Abigail Rist who grew up as a missionary kid in the Ukraine, children often receive special candy boxes during Christmastime. Yuki Funakoshi, a Japanese sophomore that also grew up as a missionary kid in the Ukraine, added that children often go caroling and receive candy from the houses they visit. The Ukrainians also have their own version of a Santa Claus accompanied by his granddaughter.

## Brazil

In Brazil, Dec. 25 falls in the summer. According to Brazilian freshman Nathalia Aildasani, many Brazilian families open presents on Christmas Eve. Then they travel to the beach and cook meals outside for Christmas Eve. Aildasani said that Brazilian Christmas meals include meat, applesauce,





Photo by Emma Burgess

Emma Burgess' home church in France organizes a live nativity every year, and they share the Christmas story and the Gospel with over 1,000 people.

rice and raisins.

### Trinidad and Tobago

Junior Justin Heerah, who hails from the Caribbean island nation of Trinidad and Tobago, said that Christmas celebrations in his country often last through December and into January.

Family and friends will often travel to one another's house and share large meals every day during this season. Christmas Eve, Christmas and Boxing Day (Dec. 26) in particular are times to visit relatives. Family members will even stay the night with one another from Christmas to Boxing Day.

Heerah added that in Trinidad and Tobago it is import-

ant that houses are completely clean by the end of Christmas Eve. People wax their floors and sometimes even buy new furniture for the occasion.

Trinidadians also use Christmas as an opportunity to make a special drink called sorrel, which is a red, sugary drink made from the flower of a plant that only grows in December.

Finally, Trinidadians enjoy parang music at Christmas. Heerah said it involves "a lot of stringed instruments and maracas." Even though Trinidadians speak English, parang lyrics are in Spanish.

### Japan

While many Christmas celebrations take part in Chris-

tian-influenced societies, the Japanese, who have been influenced by Shinto and Buddhism, also celebrate the holiday.

Japanese sophomore Mahiro Sano said that Christmas is celebrated more in Japan as a Western holiday than an explicitly Christian one. Secular American Christmas decorations abound, but not many Christian decorations. Japanese children receive gifts from Santa, and American Christmas music is also popular. Yuki Funakoshi described one more unique Christmas tradition: many people in Japan eat Kentucky Fried Chicken for Christmas.

*Bryson Durst is a sophomore in the Accelerated B.A. + MDiv program. He enjoys theology, history, playing strategy games with friends, and anything "Star Wars" related.*





# James Leightenheimer: Helping Students Grow

by Michael Cleverley

Professor James Leightenheimer, well-known and loved by students in the Department of Communication, has been used by God over the years to accomplish His will for the college and its students.

Recently, it was announced that last year's yearbook was dedicated to Leightenheimer. The yearbook's dedication is chosen by Cedarville students recommending a faculty member they feel is deserving of the honor.

Leightenheimer attended Cedarville, from 1976-80, where he was taught and influenced by Dr. Wes Baker. After almost three years of working at a radio station in Dayton, he contacted Baker to ask if he could continue to use him as a reference. Baker told him he could and mentioned to him that Cedarville was planning to expand its media program. In 1982, he returned as a broadcasting instructor.

"My plan was always to teach, but I thought after I managed or maybe owned a station I'd come back in my 40s and do that. God, just as he often does, upended my plan with, what was to Him, a much better plan," said Leightenheimer.

Leightenheimer has taught at Cedarville for 38 years. During that time God has used him to positively impact the lives of his students and brought student radio to Cedarville.

"The Lord gave me the opportunity to advocate with the administration the need for such a thing," Leightenheimer said.

Resound Radio began as a feasibility study that he conducted as a senior project. When he returned as a faculty member, they tasked him with bringing student radio to the campus. The initial cost of installing the student radio station was \$12,000.

The students helped raise funds for Resound Radio through Clean Greene, an event where students went through and cleaned Greene County and asked people for money pledges. They implemented the radio station with the help of the university maintenance department.

It took most of the school year to finish installing it. They started in September 1989 and did not air until April 5. They started broadcasting through traditional radio but moved to online streaming as trends changed.

Currently the staff is nine leaders and assistants with 35 volunteers. Leightenheimer also gets to know his students personally, be a mentor to them and prepare them for the future.

"He very much has a servant's heart and is willing to



Photo by Carrie Bergan

James Leightenheimer works with Cameron Clark as he records on air for Resound Radio.

serve his students, and he pours into them and cares about them individually," said Shannon Farmer.

Recently he took some students to a conference at CMB University, in Nashville, Tennessee. It is a conference for college students to help them network and steward their gifts in radio broadcasting or music broadcasting. The professionals there wanted to be asked questions and there is enough time for each student to talk to every professional.

"He is willing to do anything to care for people," Farmer said.

Leightenheimer was willing to mentor her and is willing to talk any time. He's more than happy to help his students with homework and life struggles they may be having. He also helps students make sure they are following God's will for their life and not just pursuing that career because it is something cool.

"He cares about the state of our souls, and our potential to further the kingdom, and he takes our dreams seriously and set us up with tools we need and on the path to get there," Alexandrya Vissing said.

Farmer originally desired to be in the film concentration of communications. Later she went to a Resound Radio staff meeting and afterward he told her that she had a gift and she should pray about whether God wanted her in radio. She is now in the radio broadcasting concentration and many others have had a similar experience of Leightenheimer pointing them in the right direction.

Leightenheimer is passionate for his students and what he does. His passion shows through his desire for his students to interact with the tools of the media to learn and not just watch. He also teaches from what he knows and does not just stick to class presentations he's created.

Leightenheimer desires his students be ready for whatever they will have to face while following God's will for their lives. That's why he takes such an interactive learning approach and also why he personally pours so much time and effort into the lives of his students.

*Michael Cleverley is a freshman Journalism major. He spends most of his time studying in the library, but when he is not he is probably hanging out with friends.*





# Campus Christmas Setup



Photos by Carrie Bergan

Campus Christmas has arrived at Cedarville thanks to Campus Experience team. The team pulls an all-nighter to transform the SSC into a festive hub for students.